

# COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health  
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

January, 1998

Volume 7, Number 1

## *In the Spotlight: Planned Parenthood of Cameron and Willacy Counties*

**F**inding solutions to the problems of accessing health care has never been easy. Sarah Diaz, Texas Cancer Council (TCC) Project Director at Planned Parenthood of Cameron County has found some creative solutions.

"The main thing that we were seeing was that there was a great need to have patients stay in the area for follow-up care," explained Ms. Diaz. "I found a way to keep the women here."

Ms. Diaz, along with Terry Oliver and Gabby Cavazos, Planned Parenthood case managers, found



*Just Another Day at the Office! -- Seated, Sarah Diaz, TCC Program, standing (l-r) Monica Cruz, office assistant, Gabby Cavazos, case manager, and Terry Oliver, case manager work hard to get the women of their community the services they need.*

15-20 local doctors, clinics and mammography centers to donate services. The doctors and clinics donate diagnostic services. The donations mean that the doctors' offices will accept Planned Parenthood's payment or a lower amount.

"We have some doctors who will accept payments as low as \$30," Ms.

Diaz said.

"I have not sent a patient to Galveston since July," said Ms. Diaz. Planned Parenthood had been sending women to UTMB in Galveston because there were no providers of diagnostic services in the Harlingen and Brownsville areas.

"Basically, I set up a letter-writing campaign to the local doctors and clinics," Ms. Diaz explained, "I'm new to the area, so I didn't really know anyone in the area. I just grabbed the phone books and called all the

doctors listed."

"The letter explained our program and how their services were needed in the community." Ms. Diaz then followed the letters with phone calls and personal visits to everyone on the list.

"I will keep begging and pleading

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Planned Parenthood  
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## BCCCP Briefs

### Training

New Employee Orientation is scheduled for January 21. Contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955 for more information.

The BCCCP State Conference will be held in San Antonio March 5-6 at the San Antonio Airport Hilton. Watch your mail for details!

There are some remaining slots available for the M.D. Anderson training in June and July. Contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955 for more information.

### Announcements



Wanda Gibson, Public Health Technician gave birth to a healthy baby boy on December 8! Joel Curtis weighed in at 7 lbs, 8 oz and was 19.25 inches long. Congratulations!



### Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

#### General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves  
Nora Ogea Lisa West  
Lurah Oliver

#### Professional Education, Clinical Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney

Stephen Wright Andrea Littlefield

#### Data Collection and Maintenance:

Vincent Crawley Christina Stovall

Codie Prinz Wanda Gibson

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#### Cancer Epidemiology/Demographics:

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#### Billing:

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### Local Changes

Please call or write Lisa West, Administrative Technician, with ANY changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. *Thank you.*

# Get Ready for This Year's State Conference, March 5-6

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) will host a State Conference in San Antonio Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6 at the San Antonio Airport Hilton.

The conference theme is "Making Connections, Making a Difference." The conference is designed to stimulate discussion on ways to better connect with medical science, institutions and the people we seek to serve.

Sessions fall into four categories: Clinical Updates, Our Priority Populations, Com

HILTONS.

Watch your mail for your registration form. For more information about the conference or exhibiting, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist or Stephen Wright, Public Information Officer at (800) 452-1955 until they finally break down and say yes!"

"I was able to dedicate my time to this project. Before I began working here, the program didn't have someone in this position to create these alliances. I think the doctors appreciated having a specific person to talk to."

"The challenge remains to find a local hospital to donate services in case there is a woman diagnosed with cancer.

"I am trying to get the local hospital to commit to serving just one person who is diagnosed with cancer," said Ms. Diaz.

Call Sarah Diaz, TCC Project Director, Planned Parenthood of Cameron and Willacy Counties at (956) 425-5806 for more information about the project.

*Is your clinic doing a special project to solve problems or have you created alliances or collaborated with partners that are non-traditional? Do you have an employee who is outstanding? If so, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955 and your clinic or employee could be next "In the Spotlight!"*

municating with People and Working Together. In addition, training courses will be offered on other topics.

The purpose of this conference is to bring organizations and individuals who serve diverse populations with low incomes and to share information on ways to better serve these priority populations.

The registration fee for the conference is \$60. The fee covers materials, two luncheons, a continental breakfast, snacks and refreshments during networking breaks.

Special room rates of \$70/single and \$85/double have been arranged with the San Antonio Airport Hilton. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-

# Ask The Expert

Don't forget, you can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.

**Q:** *What does the TMN represent in staging classification?*

**A:** Tumor Size, Metastasis and Nodal Involvement. The reports sent to the State office should be reviewed to insure these three items are covered.

**Q:** *Do I have to send in a monthly report to the State office?*

**A:** Each month, you are required to submit all completed data forms for clients seen in the previous month, in addition to purchase vouchers and SUM forms. You must also respond to requests for data or other information sent in the packet to each BCCCP provider every month. This packet includes error reports on data forms, information on outstanding staging reports, and a list of all pending cases. In addition, you must submit a report in response to the Program Achievement Data Indicator report sent at the end of each quarter.



## D-19 Screening Form Submission Keep Them Coming Together!

**W**hen submitting the new D-19 screening forms to the State office, please make sure that the Breast Cancer Screening Form and the Cervical Cancer Screening Form are *attached* if both services were provided. If a client received a full cycle of cervical services, and only a Clinical Breast Exam for breast services, ***both forms should be attached and submitted together*** in order to avoid any misinterpretation.

If comprehensive coverage was not an option at the time, the remaining blank screening form should be filed in the client's chart for completion on the next appropriate visit date.

## Hot Off The Press!



**T**he American Cancer Society has copies of "American Cancer Society Guidelines for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer: Update 1997" available for Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) providers. Please contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, (800) 452-1955 if you would like copies of this publication.

The National Cancer Institute recently released "The Nation's Investment in Cancer Research: A Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 1999." If anyone is interested in receiving this publication, contact NCI's Cancer Information Service at (800) 4-CANCER to order copies.

## Data Form Completion

**W**hen completing data forms, make sure that you **PRINT** the information requested on the form. Try to make the forms as legible as possible. Make sure you answer each question, include dates and funding sources.

## Milestone Awards: Providers Excel At Completing Diagnostic Evaluations



**A**bnormal findings from screening examinations require further diagnostic evaluation. This evaluation must be completed to determine if treatment or follow-up is necessary. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that at least 95 percent of cases referred for a diagnostic evaluation be completed. The remaining five percent of cases include women who are lost to follow-up, refuse necessary procedures or have pending procedures. Seven providers met this goal during the last contract year:

- *UT Southwestern Medical Center*
- *Community Action Corporation of South Texas*
- *YWCA of Abilene*
- *TWU Cares Health Center*
- *Memorial Health System of East Texas*
- *Tarrant County Public Health Department*
- *Ella Austin Health Center*

Congratulations to those providers who achieved this goal. Keep up the good work!

## New Staff Orientation Scheduled

**O**rientation for new provider staff working with the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) is being offered on January 21, 1998. This training is for new staff. The orientation will cover basic clinical protocols, billing and other Program areas. Call Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955 for more information.

### Important Dates

#### January

January 1

Must Use New Data Forms!

Medicare Changes in Effect

New Year's Day

State Office Closed

January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

State Office Closed

January 29 - BCCCP New Staff  
Orientation

#### February

February 16 - President's Day

State Office Closed

Women Served\*:

95,778

Breast Screenings:

109,568

Cervical Screenings:

83,972

Breast Cancers:

539

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:

1276

Invasive Cervical Cancer:

43

\*As of December 15, 1997

## Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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